



Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities MEETING MINUTES February 09, 2015

Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities REGULAR MEETING MINUTES (09 Feb, 2015)

The Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities convened in a regular meeting on 09 Feb, 2015 at the Brown Heatly Building Room #1420 located at 4900 N Lamar in Austin, Texas.

Chair Jesus Lardizabal called the Board Meeting to order at 12:05 PM

Board Members in Attendance: Chair, Jesus Lardizabal, Vice Chair, Tanya Winters, Chip Howe, Kathy Keller, Norman Kieke, Ron Lucey. Absent – Katie Navine

Staff in Attendance: Dolores Gonzalez, Lee Nguyen

1. Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Ron Lucey made a motion to approve the December 08, 2014 minutes and the January 12, 2015 Work Session Notes. Commissioner Tanya Winters seconded the motion. All approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS: For discussion and possible action

- Update on the ADA 25th Bus Legacy Tour Event
 - Website: www.txada25.txsilc.org
 - March 1, 2014 The Legacy Tour will be exhibiting at the Independent Living Conference at the South Austin Marriott.
 - March 2, 2014 The ADA Tour Bus will make various stop at local disability agencies including Disability Rights Texas, Capital Metro and Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center.
 - March 3, 2014 Bob Bullock Museum 11 am-1 pm ADA Trail Blazers Presentation, Disability Panel and lunch. Nominations are still being accepted for ADA Trail Blazers; deadline is February 11, 2015. Honored guests for the event include Lex Freiden and Senator Kirk Watson.
- Transition Plan for new Committee
 - The Committee would like to have a job description for new Commissioners that include recommended skills and abilities to balance diversity in new commissioners.
 - A manual will be set up by the Committee that details key initiatives and activities that the committee has been involved with.
 - Commissioner Lucey suggested having an appendix of organizations where new commissioners could be recruited from including DARS.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to adopt a skills and abilities description for new committee members keeping the recommended changes and adding an appendix of organizations. Commissioner Norman Kieke seconded the motion. All approved with Commissioner Tanya Winters abstaining.
 - Please forward any additional ideas for the transition manual to Commissioner Tanya Winters. Commissioner Winters will lead the transition workgroup and Commissioner Chip Howe expressed interest participating.
 - The transition manual will include: event information including contacts, checklist, procedures and marketing information.

3. NEW BUSINESS: For discussion and possible action

- Presentation: Judith Ursitti, Director State Government Affairs for Autism Speak. Discussion of access to applied behavior analysis for children with Autism of City of Austin employee.

- Early diagnosis and treatment are critical to a positive outcome for individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Behavioral health treatment in the form of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) include: Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy coupled with psychological, psychiatric, and pharmaceutical care.
- Studies have shown that ABA can significantly help children with Autism achieve normal IQs. Despite positive studies, insurers still frequently deny ABA treatment pointing out that they are considered experimental in nature.
- The actual cost to premiums from insurers that cover ABA averages .46 cents in premium increase by the third year of plan coverage for ABA by the surveyed providers.
- The City of Austin Health Insurance Plan is “Self-Funded” where the employer pays the health benefits for its employees from its own pocket and assume all the risk and hires a third party administrator to manage claims. Self-funded plans are exempt from the Federal ERISA from most state insurance regulation including benefits reform.
- For additional information please contact Judith Ursitti at:
Judith.ursitti@autismspeaks.org
- Commissioner Ron Lucey made a motion to provide a letter of support from the committee to include ABA treatment coverage to 17 children with autism in the City Health Insurance Plan. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All approved.
 - For the complete presentation please email Lee Nguyen
lee.nguyen@austintexas.gov

➤ **Committee Reports**

- Access & Youth Committee – Chair Tanya Winters
 - Committee Chair Tanya Winters told the committee that she represented the AMCPD at the ADA Bus Tour planning meeting on February 18.
- Awards & Employment Committee – Chair Ron Lucey
 - Committee Chair, Ron Lucey announced that the Business of Work Seminar would take place prior to April 14, 2015 the date of this year’s City wide Career Expo. The first launch meeting will take place in late February.

4. **ACTION ITEMS:** Two action items were discussed during the February 09, 2015 meeting.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Ron Lucey to adopt a transition document for the AMCPD keeping the recommended changes and adding an appendix of organizations, Commissioner Norman Kieke seconded the motion. All approved with Commissioner Tanya Winters abstaining.
 - Commissioner Ron Lucey made a motion to provide a letter of support from the committee to include ABA treatment coverage to 17 children with Autism in the City Health Insurance Plan. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Keller. All approved.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** No public hearings were held during the February 09, 2015 meeting.
6. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:** There was one citizen communications at the February 09, 2015 meeting of the AMCPD.
 - Lisa Whitted wife of City of Austin Employee: asking the City of Austin to include ABA therapy coverage in the current City Health Insurance plans. Lisa along with other City employees who have children with Autism met with the Human Resources Benefits Division on the issue in early September. Lisa would like the committee to support this issue with education and a letter of support for ABA coverage to the City Management staff and City Council.

7. **STAFF BRIEFING:** Dolores Gonzalez

- **Budget:** report: The Committee renewed the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities membership leaving a fiscal year balance of \$6,005.00.
- Staff liaison Dolores Gonzalez notified the Committee that the ADA Office staff has initiated work on the annual ADA Implementation Report.
- The series of PARD ADA Inclusion trainings is continuing January- March 2015.

CALENDAR

- Feb 28 Easter Seals Gala Omni Barton Creek Resort
- Mar 1 ADA Bus Tour in Austin Welcome Reception at Independent Living Council
- Mar 2 ADA Bus Tour in Austin -various local stops are planned including Austin High School, Capital Metro and Disability Rights Texas. Final stop will have BBQ.
- Mar 3 ADA Bus Tour in Austin - Community Event at Bob Bullock Museum with box lunch provided.
- May 11-13 Access University at St Edwards University
- Oct 14 White Cane Day

8. **Future Agenda Items:** no future agenda items were discussed at the February 09, 2014 AMCPD meeting.

9. **ADJOURN** – A motion was made to adjourn the February 09, 2015, meeting by Commissioner Ron Lucey; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanya Winters. All approved.